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# 339. REPLIES TO QUESTIONS ON GENERAL ANGKI (Sedo) PREPARED BY LAWRENCE J. McIVITIE ARE GIVEN BELOW BY CAPTAIN M. D. KENNEDY, A BRITISH ARMY LANGUAGE OFFICER IN JAPAN 1917-1920, AND REUTERS CORRESPONDENT IN JAPAN 1925-1934.

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1. Since 1933, though I had met him once or twice some years previously when he was a Colonel.
  2. Only towards the end of his time as War Minister.
  3. Yes, and he was anxious for me, as a foreign correspondent, to study the situation on the spot in order that I might judge it for myself. This I did in the spring of 1934 and was given every facility to go wherever I wanted to go and to see whatever and whoever I wished to see. In the talks I was able to have, I was particularly struck by the unusual frankness with which my questions were answered as a result of General ANGKI's personal instructions.
  4. His views on the Manchurian question tended to be obscured by philosophical disquisitions on "Kodo" (The Kingly Way) and were, in consequence, difficult to follow at times. While, however, there was something of the mystic and the verbose visionary about him, he gave one the feeling that he was absolutely sincere and honest in his convictions and was not just striving for effect or for propaganda. He clearly believed that by means of "Kodo", Manchuria could be turned into a veritable paradise on earth, both for its native inhabitants and for his own countrymen.
- 1-A. Never in my hearing. His main aim appeared to be to develop Manchuria as a bulwark of defense against the U.S.S.R. and as a land of peace and plenty.
- B. He regretted the British and American refusal to recognize Manchukuo, as he felt that a peaceful settlement was retarded thereby.
- C. I cannot recall anything.
- D. In the existing circumstances, he considered Japan had to withdraw from the League; but in November 1933 he intimated to me that he would be prepared to see Japan re-enter the League if the Covenant were revised in such a way as to ensure assistance to any country suffering from an economic boycott.
- E. I have no special recollection.
- F. On these I can only reply from hearsay. From what I heard at the time from seemingly reliable

Det. Doc. # 339

sources, ARKI was deeply distressed that his own teachings had been misconstrued by hot-headed young men with a distorted sense of patriotism and had influenced them into perpetrating the outrages of 15th May 1932. He was particularly distressed by the impairment of Army discipline which it indicated. It was only after being urged to retain his post in order to restore discipline that he consented to withdraw his resignation, which he had submitted as a sign that he accepted responsibility for the misdeeds of his subordinates.

His influence on the perpetrators of these outrages may be likened to that of Gandhi who, though patently averse from any forms of violence, has undoubtedly been responsible for acts of violence by excitable elements in India.

Of the 2/26 Incident I cannot speak, as I was not in Japan at the time.

G. According to Japanese friends in a position to know, General ARKI was disposed to hold aloof from politics and to devote himself to his duties as a soldier. It was said that in the Cabinet ARKI was mainly a listener, except when policies affecting the Army or national security were involved.

The only political activity of which I can speak with personal knowledge is that, in the latter half of 1933 he approached me with a request that I would convey to the British Ambassador the information that he, ARKI, was anxious to meet him informally with a view to discussing the possibility of improving relations between Britain and Japan, as he had become convinced that closer friendship and co-operation was essential for the peace of the Far East. Prior to this approach, certain statements credited to him in the Japanese Press had made him appear somewhat anti-British in sentiment; but, following a personal appeal sent to him privately by the Empress Dowager, who was an ardent advocate of close and friendly relations with Great Britain, he exerted himself to the utmost to fall in with her wishes. Realizing, however, that any indication of his activities in this respect leaked out into the Press, his efforts would be nullified at the start, he made a point of keeping his contacts with the British Embassy as inconspicuous as possible, although they were carried out with the knowledge and consent of the Foreign Minister.

H. Nothing to reply.

I. I should doubt that he deliberately advocated

Q. Q. No. 39

or taught aggressiveness or aggression with this ultimate object. Like most Japanese, however, he undoubtedly believed that Japanese influence should be paramount in East Asia and that Pax Japonica would be a benefit to all.

B. Not so far as I am aware, though articles credited to him sometimes had an aggressive ring. Many of these articles, however, were said to have been written by "hack" writers and not by himself, a practice not uncommon in the Japanese Press, which frequently showed little compunction in quoting persons as doing or saying things which they had never said or done.

5. A. I was not in Japan at this time, so am not in a position to reply.

B. He was definitely anti-Communist and appeared to be opposed to Fascism in Japan, but I cannot recall any definite denunciation or approval of Fascism in other countries.

C. & D. I am unable to reply, as I was not in Japan at the time.

6. No.

7. Sir Francis Lindley, British Ambassador to Japan 1931-4.

A. Yes, many times.

B. Opinions as to his peacefulness varied, but I have never heard his truthfulness, honesty or reliability called in question. Duplicity and pretence were considered equally foreign to him and his honesty of purpose and indifference to politics and personal gain were generally recognized. An idealist by nature and a soldier by disposition, the general impression was that he was honest and upright, a man of simple tastes, of kindly disposition and courtly in his bearing towards others; but he was a mystic and a visionary in his outlook and, unlike the great majority of Japanese officers, extremely verbose at times and liable to be carried away by the torrent of his own verbosity when discussing his pet subject, "Kodo".

I certify that the above replies, which are based partly on notes made at the time and partly from memory, have been given correctly to the best of my ability.

(signed) M. D. Kennedy

"Freshfield"  
58 Suffolk Road  
Barnes, London, S.W.13

26th December 1946

Def Doc No. 339

ロイレンス、J、マクマナス氏作製ニ係ル  
荒木貞夫大將ニ關スル質問書ニ對シ

一九一七一一九二〇年駐日英陸軍語學將校  
一九二五一一九三四年ロイテル通信日本特  
派員タリシ M、D、ケホディー大尉ノ回答  
書

一、一九三三年以來デス、但シ其ノ數年前彼ガ大佐時代ニ一、二回會ツタ事ハア  
リマス

二、陸軍大臣トシテノ末期頃ニノミ

三、然リ、而シテ私ニ外國通信員トシテ現地ニ於ケル情況ヲ研究シ、私自身デ  
判斷ヲ下スヤウニト非常ニ熱心ニ勵メテ吳レマシタム

此ノ事ハ一九三四年春私ハ實行政シマシテ其ノ折ハ彼ハ私ノ行キ度イ處、  
見度イモノ會ヒ度イ人ハ全部希望ガ遂ゲラレル様アラユル便宜ヲ與ヘテ吳レ  
マシタ、其ノ折ノ會談ノ際ニハ荒木大將自ラノ御指圖ノオ蔭デ私ノ質問ハ異  
常ノ率直サヲ以テ回答セラレマシタノデ此ノ點特ニ感銘致シマシタム

Def 400 No. 339

(四) 彼ノ滿洲問題ニ對スル意見ハ「皇道」ト云フ哲學的研究ガ加ハル爲メニ時々了解ニ苦シム時ガアリマシタ。然シ乍ラ一方ニ於テハ何トナク神祕的ナ口數ノ多イ幻影的ナ一面ヲ持ツテハ居マシタ。同時ニ又絶対ニ眞摯ニシテ其ノ信念ニ徹シテ居リ單ニ巧利的ニ又ハ宣傳ヲ目指シテ云ツテ居ルノデハ無イト云フ感ジ。其ヘヤシタ。彼ハ「皇道」ヨリ滿洲ヲ滿洲人ト日本人ノ爲メノ眞ノ樂土トスル事ガ出來ルト云フ。信フ持ツテ居マシタ。

(一) 開イタ事ハアリマセん。彼ノ主タル目的ハ滿洲ヲシテ蘇聯ニ對スル防衛也。

(二) 彼ハ英米ノ滿洲國承認拒絶ヲ遺憾ニ思ヒ此ノ爲メニ平和工作ニ遲延ヲ來タシタ。ト考ヘテ居マシタ。

(三) 何等恩ヒ出ス事ハアリマセん。

(四) 當時ノ狀況トシテハ日本ノ國際聯盟敗退ハ止ムヲ得ナイト考ヘテ居マシタ。併シ一九三三年十一月ニ私ニ打チ明ケテ聯盟規約ガ經濟的排貨運動ニ苦シム國ニ對シ之レヲ援助ヲ約束スルヤウニ修正サレバ日本ヲ再ビ之レニ加入サセルヤウニ計フ用意ガアルト言ヒマシタ。

Def Doc No. 339

(上)

此ノ項ハ又聞キニヨル返事ガ出來ルダケデス、當時信頼シ得ルト思ハレタ方面カラ聞イタ處ニヨリマスト、荒木ハ自分ノ教ヘガ誤レル愛國心ヲ持ツ熱情的ナ青年ノ爲メニ曲解サレ遂ニ一九三二年五月十五日ノヤウナ暴力行爲ヲ犯スニ至ラシメル一助トナツタ事ヲ非常ニ氣ニシテ居マシク殊ニ教

材中ニ指摘シタ軍紀ノ頗廢ワ特ニ氣ニ病ンデ居リマシタ  
彼ハ部下ノ不法行爲ニ對スル責任ヲ採ル證左トシテ辭表ヲ提出シタノデアリマスガ、軍紀ノ再建ノ爲メダカラト云ツテ職ニ留ル事ヲ要請サレテ漸ク

辭表ヲ徵シタ様ナ次第アリマス  
之等ノ暴力行爲ノ遂行ニ對シ彼ガ與ヘタ影響ハ、丁度ガンジーノ場合ニ良  
ク似テ居ルト思ヒマスガ、ガンジーハ暴力行爲一切ヲ眞正固カラ嫌ツテ居ルノ  
デスガ、ソレニモ拘ラズ勿論印度内ノ亢奮シ易イ分子ガ惹起シタ暴力沙汰  
ニハ責任ガアルノデス

(下)當時當然ソウ云々ワ知ル事ノ由來タ地位ニ居ツタ日本人ノ友人達カラ聞  
イタ處ニヨリマスト荒木大將ハ政治問題カラ離レバ宜人トシテノ任務ニ專  
せん

Def. Doc No. 339

念シタイ希望ヲ持ツテ居マシタ  
内閣ニ於テモ荒木ハ問題ガ陸軍又ハ國防保全ニ關スルモノア無イ限り主トシ

テ據キ役デアツタソウデス。

「私ガ自分デ知ツテキル事デ彼ノ政治的方面ノ活動ニ就テ云ヒ得ル事ハ一九三三年ノ後半期ニ彼荒木ハ私ヲ訪問シテ英國大使ニ對シ、非公式ニ會ツテ、英日關係ノ改善ノ可能性ヲ論議シタイカラ其ノ旨ヲ傳ヘテ貰イタイト願シダ事デス彼ハ極東ノ平和ノ爲メニハ英日ノ更ニ緊密ナル親善並ニ捷揚ガ必須デ

アルトノ確信ヲ持ツテキルトノ事デアリマシタ」

其ノ暫ク前ニ或ル日本ノ新聞ヘ掲載サレタ彼ニ責任ガアルト云フ一文ニヨリ彼ハ思想的ニハ反英的デアルト云フ印象ヲ與ヘテ居リマシタ。ケレドモ當時對英堅密友好關係ノ熱心ナ唱導者デアツタ皇太后陛下ガ、私力ニ荒木ニ使者ヲ送ツア頼ミ込ンデ以來、荒木ハ皇太后陛下ノ御着望ニ沿フ様ニハ努力ワ致シマシタ。併シ彼ノ新ウシタ行動ノ一端デモレテ新聞ニ載デ彼ガ英大使トノ接衝ハ、出來ルダケ人目ニツカヌ機配慮サレテ居リマシタノレバ彼ノ努力ハ其ノ始メカラ水泡ニ歸シテ仕舞フ事ハ良ク仰ツテ居マシタノ但シ此ノ事ハ外務省モ承知且ツ賛成シタ上デ行ハレタ事デハアリマス

(4) オ答へスル事ハアリマセン

Def. Doc No. 339

2

(イ) 彼ガ侵略的ナ事若クハ侵略ヲ究極ノ目的トシテ熱心ニ唱導シ、若クス  
教示シタト云フ點ハ疑問アリマス、唯外ノ日本人ト同ジニ徳モ東亞ニ於  
テハ日本ノ勢力ガ最高デアルベキデアツテ日本ニヨル平和ノ統治ガ總テノ

人ニ利益ガアルノダト信ジテキタ事ハ疑ヒアリマゼン。

(ロ) 私ノ氣ノ付イタ限りデハソウ云フ事ハアリマゼン但シ彼ニ責任ガアル  
ト云ハレル文章中ニハ侵略的ノ輪廓ヲ持ツタモノアリマシタ。ケレドモ  
此ウ云フ書イタモノハ全部彼ガ書イタノデハ無ク下勤キノ人ノ代作デアル  
ト云フ時デシタ、此ウ云フヤリ方ハ日本新聞界デハ決シテ珍ラシイ事デハ  
無ク其ノ爲メニ世人が往々、言ツク事モ爲シタ事モ無イ事ヲ信ヒ又ハ爲シ  
タト云フ風ニ引用サレテ後悔シテキル様子ガ見エルト云フ事ガ是タアリマ  
シタ。

五(イ)當時私ハ日本ニ居ラナカツタカラ返事スル事ハ出来マゼン

(ロ) 彼ハ絶対ニ反共産主義デアリ日本ニ「ファシズム」ヲ持ツテ來ル事モ  
反對ノ模デシタ併シ彼ガ他所ノ國ニ於ケル「ファシズム」ヲ絶対ニ非難シ  
又ハ賞メタノワ開イタスハ記憶ニ残ツテ居リマゼン。

(シ)當時日本ニ居ナカツタカラ返事出來マゼン

六否

セヨ 一九三一—一九三四四年駐日英大使フランシス・リンドレー卿ヲ見ゲマス

(イ) 然リ、數度

(ロ) 平和ニ對スル彼ノ態度ニ就テハ色々ト世上意見ガ分レテキニスガ彼ノ屬實性、正直、信頼性ト云フセノガ同様ニナツタノヲ聞イタ事ハアリマセン。二重人格性トカ擬リヲスルト云フ事ハ彼絶對ニシナイ事デ、彼ガ目的ニ對シテ正直デアリ政治並ニ個人的利得ニ無用心デアツタ事ハ一般ニ認メラレテキマシタ。

性格トシテハ理想主義者、素質ハ軍人デアリ、正直ニシテ律直、趣味ハ簡素、性質ハ親切、他人ニ對スル態度ハ禮儀正シイト云フノガ一般ノ印象デアリマス。ケレ共彼ノ外貌ハ神祕的乃至幻想的デアリ他ノ多クノ日本將校ト違ツテ時ニハ甚シク冗舌的デアリ、彼ノ得意ノ題目「星道」ヲ論ズル時ニハ自分ノ冗舌ニ引カレテ言ヒ過ギル傾向ガアリマシタ。

上記回答ハ一概當時ノ記錄ニヨリ一部ハ自分ノ記憶ニヨツタモノデ、出來得ル限り正シケ述ベタモノデアルヲ證明シマス。

一九四六年十二月二十六日 倫敦 ヨ

ケネディー署名